

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

While hydrogen gas is generated through a reaction between the electrolytic solution and the foil electrodes during the aging treatment, the capacitor element of the prior art is encased in a metal casing having enough strength to resist the pressure of hydrogen gas generated during the aging treatment so as to maintain the external configuration thereof, because the opening of the casing is sealed by calking with a strong force. An attempt has also ~~[[be]]~~ been made where the casing is sealed by means of sealant made of rubber through which hydrogen gas is discharged to the outside (Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication (Kokai) No. 57-1219: Patent Document 3). With this construction, however, what can be discharged through diffusion via the rubber sealant is the small amount of hydrogen gas generated during use of the capacitor after it has been manufactured, at most. Hydrogen gas generated rapidly during the aging treatment cannot be discharged with this construction. Even during normal operation, the gas pressure rises so as to cause deformation of the capacitor and/or degradation of performance at times when hydrogen gas is generated at a high rate which cannot be accommodated by the rubber sealant.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

The flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor of the present invention comprising a flexible casing, a flat aluminum electrolytic capacitor element housed in the flexible casing which is hermetically sealed, and external lead-out terminals led respectively from the anode foil and the cathode foil of the capacitor element.